International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

DTM

ANALYSIS:
FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS
PROFILE OF MIGRANTS INTERVIEWED IN ROMANIA
JANUARY 2018

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

UKaid
from the British people

331 interviews were conducted in Romania in August 2017

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Map 1: Flow Monitoring Points in Romania - locations where surveys were conducted*

**About DTM`s Flow Monitoring Surveys**

The flow monitoring surveys implemented in Romania are part of IOM´s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean that have started in October 2015 and are being conducted within the framework of IOM´s research on populations on the move, through the Mediterranean and Western Balkans Routes to Europe. Throughout the course of 2017 more than 20 data collectors collected 9,483 surveys in Italy, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. Different analysis and information product based on the overall sample (including surveys from 2016) can be found on DTM´s Migration Flows to Europe Geoportal.

This analysis provides a unique look into responses collected in Romania in August 2017. A team of four data collectors located in three different reception centres around the country – Timisoara, Bucharest and Galati (see map above) collected a total of 349 surveys, out of which, 331 were categorized as valid responses (completed interview with individual´s consent). The further analysis includes information about migrants' profiles, including their age, sex, areas of origin, levels of education and employment status before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for moving and intentions.

The survey also containes more detailed questions on family and employment status before departure and additional child focused questions (e.g. education levels, the last time a child had access to education, etc.). Further, it allows the interviewer to capture a higher number of locations with protection incidents. The Eastern Mediterranean survey used in Romania, also includes six questions that are proxy indicators for potential human trafficking or exploitative practices experienced by the respondents or other migrants en-route, which are exempted from this analysis.

The Central Mediterranean survey includes the same questions as well as two additional pilot questions within the module on Human Trafficking and Other Exploitative Practices Prevalence Indication, focusing on direct or indirect experiences of migrants with sexual gender-based violence and physical violence during the journey (read more here).

Further information about the questionnaire, proxy indicators and survey implementation can be found in the Methodology section.
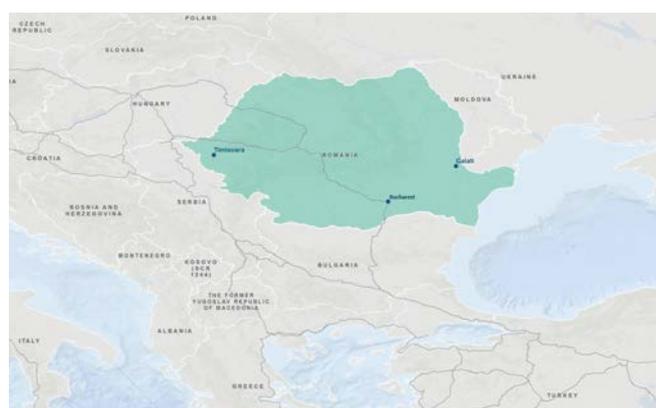
Context of migration flows to Romania and the profile of interviewed migrants

According to available DTM flow monitoring data collated from the relevant Romanian authorities, 1,600 irregular migrants have been apprehended on entry to Romania between January and December 2017. Additional 939 individuals were registered while trying to leave the country irregularly. More than half of the registered migrants originated from Iraq (66%), followed by Syrian (18%), Iranian (7%) and Afghan (3%) nationals. The remaining 6% is comprised of more than 10 different nationalities, each represented by less than 1% (Somalian, Afghan, Pakistani, migrants from South-Eastern Europe and Northern Africa).

The survey sample followed the structure of the official breakdown and resulted in the Syrian and Iraqi predominant sample. Therefore, the further analysis provides more insights into the specifics of the responses collected from migrants belonging to these two nationality groups.

Demographic breakdown

Fifty per cent of interviewed migrants arrived from Syria and 36% were Iraqi nationals. Five per cent of the overall sample belongs to migrants arriving from Pakistani while those from Iran (3%), Somalia (2%) and Afghanistan (2%) comprise 6% in total.

Average age of respondents was 29 years with the majority of them being adult males (71%) while 27% of the assessed population were adult females. There were only six children (or 2%) between 14 and 17 years among the surveyed population[1].
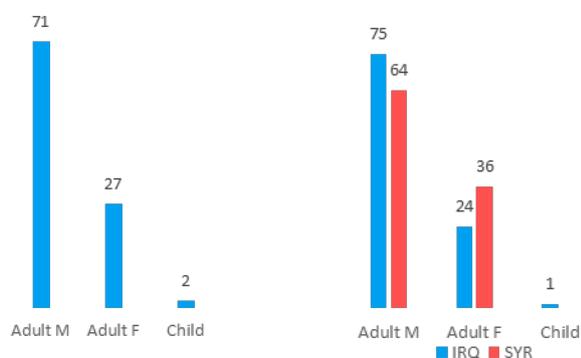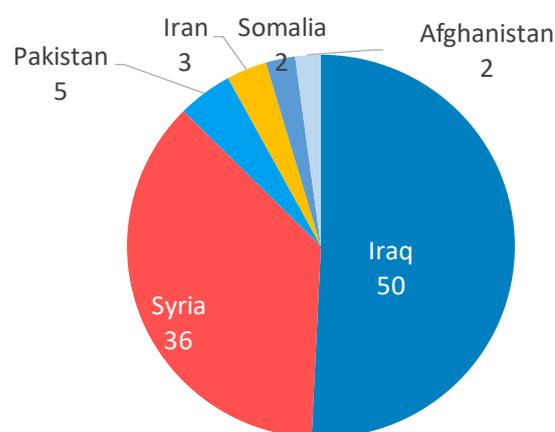

Figure 1: Nationality breakdown of the interviewed sample

Comparing Syrian and Iraqi nationals, there were slightly more adult female respondents among the first group (36% and 24% respectively), while the Iraqi respondents were mainly adult males (75%). Sixty-two per cent of respondents were younger than 30.

Figure 2 and 3: Age/Gender breakdown of interviewed migrants

Education level

Fourty two per cent of all respondents reported having obtained secondary education, while 25 per cent reported their highest level of education to be primary education, while for 21 per cent it was tertiary. The remaining 12 per cent reported not having obtained any formal level of education. Comparing education levels in Syria and Iraq, A larger proportion of Syrians obtained secondary upper education, while the largest proportion of Iraqis assessed obtained primary education. .

Figure 4: Level of education of interviewed Syrian and Iraqi migrants

[1]Available age gender breakdown for registered irregular migrants between April and end of December, indicates that 49% of migrants were male and 19% female. Moreover, 33% of overall population were registered as children. Despite the relatively high percentage of minors, this was not reflected in the interviewed sample as most of them arrived with their families who preferred to be represented by the head of the household (mainly husbands, male adults).

Marital status

Approximately half of the respondents were single, while 43 per cent were married. The rest were widowed (3%), divorced (2%) or did not provide an answer (2%). Male respondents were more likely to be single with over half of the male respondents (55%) reporting to be single while this figure was for 30 per cent for the female respondents.

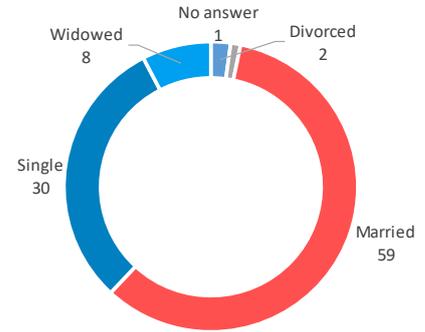**Figure 5: Percentage of male respondents by marital status.**

Figure 6: Percentage of female respondents by marital status.

In terms of different nationality groups, it was observed that majority of Iraqi respondents were single (55%) while 51% of Syrian migrants reported being married at the time of the interview.

Moreover, 40% reported having children (46% of Iraqi and 38% of Syrian migrants). In 70% of the cases, children were travelling with the respondents. Seventeen per cent of interviewees said their children are still in the origin country and 11% that they have already reached the destination country.
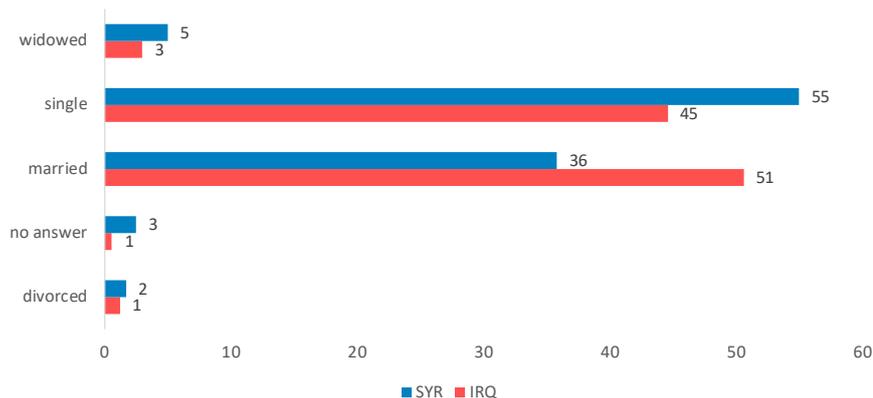
Figure 7: Breakdown by marital status for Iraqi and Syrian respondents

Employment prior to departure

Forty-one per cent of all respondents were employed prior their departure from countries of origin or habitual residence, while 37 per cent were unemployed. Eleven per cent reported to have been self-employed and another 11 per cent reported to have been studying. Iraqi nationals surveyed were more likely to be employed, compared to Syrian nationals (46% vs. 33%). Male respondents were more likely to be employed (including self-employment) before their migration than female interviewees (67% vs. 12% respectively).
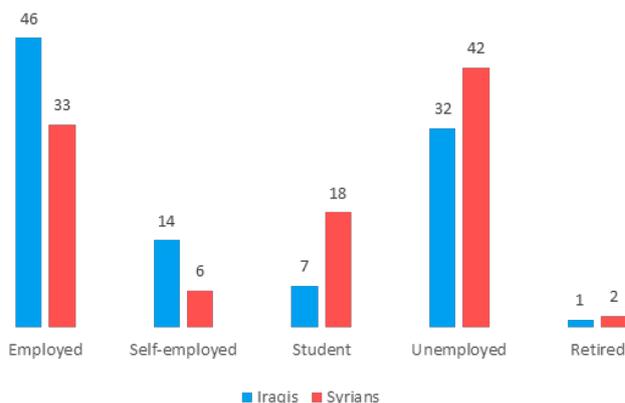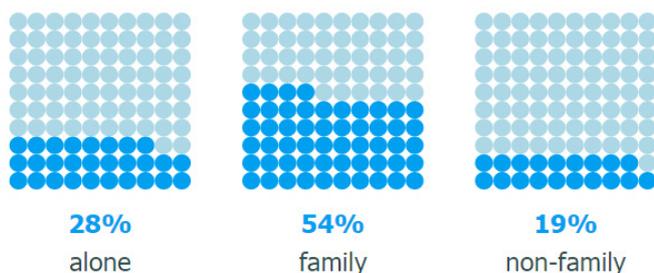
The highest percentage of unemployed migrants (48%) was noticed among those who reported having obtained secondary-lower education, while more than half of respondents who completed primary school reported being employed prior to starting their journey from the country of origin or departure.

Figure 8: Employment status of Syrian and Iraqi migrants prior to the departure

MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BEYOND
FLOW MONITORING DATA ANALYSIS
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Travel

Slightly more than half of all respondents (54%) were travelling with their family, while 27 per cent were travelling alone and 19 per cent were travelling with non-family member(s). Male respondents were more likely to travel alone than female respondents (34% vs. 10%). Most individuals stated that they travelled with their spouse and children (43%), followed by smaller proportions of assessed persons who travelled with children only (15%) or with parents only (15%). The remaining respondents stated that they travelled exclusively with their siblings (11%), their spouse (8%) or with relatives that were not first-degree relatives (8%).

28% alone

54% family

19% non-family

Figure 8: Percentage of respondents travelling alone, with family and non family members.

There were no significant differences in results when observed at the two selected nationality groups. More than half of Syrian and Iraqi migrants were travelling with their family members (60% and 59% respectively). Approximately a quarter of them travelled alone (28% and 23%) and the remaining respondents were accompanied by non-family members on their journey (13% and 18% respectively)..

with children only

with parent only

with spouse and children

with siblings only

with spouse only

with relatives non first line

Figure 9: Shares of respondents per composition of the family group

Secondary migration

Thirteen per cent of respondents engaged in secondary migration, as they had started their journey towards Romania after having already spent at least one year in a country different from that of origin. Half of the respondents who engaged in secondary migration departed from Greece after having spent between one and two years there.

Cost of journey

Approximately half of all respondents (53%) estimated the cost of their journey to have amounted to more than 5,000 USD, while just over a fifth (21%) reported the estimated cost to be between 2,500 and 5,000 USD, 6 per cent estimated it to be between 1,000 and 2,500 USD, and 7 per cent believed that is was less than 1,000 USD. The remaining one per cent of respondents reported not having paid for the journey

As per graph shown, Iraqi migrants reportedly had higher costs of their journey - 63% had paid more then 5,000 USD compared to 43% of Syrians who did so.
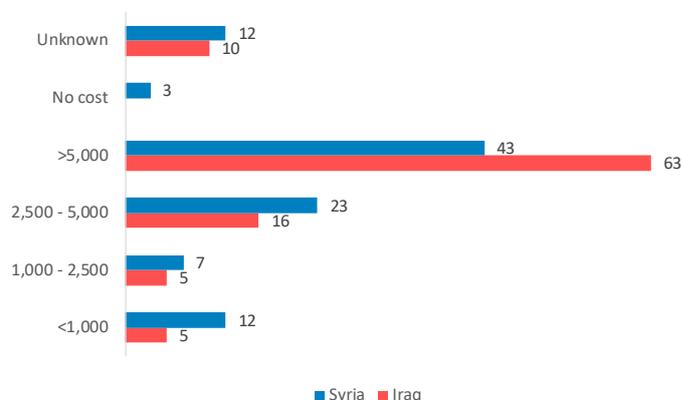

Figure 10: Reported cost of the journey by nationality

Reasons for leaving countries of origin

Most respondents (48%) reported having left their countries of origin or habitual residence due to war or conflict, six per cent reported violence or fear of persecutions as reasons for leaving, while 21 per cent reported both, war and fear of persecution as their reasons for leaving. The rest reported other reasons, such as economic reasons, family or education.

Reasons for leaving country of departure (that is different from that of origin)

When migrants left a country different from the one of origin (i.e. engaged in secondary migration) they were asked by the interviewers about their reasons to move again towards Europe to understand to what extent reasons for migration change in time and in different contexts. Approximately 40 per cent of the respondents reported relocation within the EU as the reason for leaving the departure countries (mostly Greece), while others reported war, conflict and economic reasons for leaving countries of departure.

Transit routes: Iraqi nationals

The majority (70%) of all Iraqi nationals who left from Iraq transited first through Turkey. Six per cent transited Syria first, followed by Turkey. After Turkey, the flow divided into two routes - one moving through Bulgaria and Serbia, where the majority went after Turkey, and another, smaller flow that went to Greece (15%).

**Map 2: Main routes taken by Iraqi respondents.**

Black Sea Route

Analysis of the overall sample indicates that almost all interviewed migrants crossed to Romania by land. Only two of them arrived to Romania by sea. However, according to available statistics, there was a noticeable increase in sea arrivals between August and November 2017 when Romanian Coast Guard rescued 543 migrants who departed from Turkey aiming to sail in to the Romania. Majority of migrants were from Iraq and Iran, and a small percentage (less than 10%) from Syria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sixty five percent of migrants were adults (app. 73% men and 27% women) and the remaining 35% were minors. (Read more here)

Countries of intended destination

Migrants' intentions in terms of final destinations can change during the journey, depending on the experiences en route and to the conditions and possibilities in the countries where the survey was carried out.

When asked about their intended country of destination at the time of departure from countries of origin or habitual residence, approximately 40 per cent named Germany, followed by 19 per cent who intended to move to Romania, and 11 per cent who mentioned Europe as a whole. The remaining 30 per cent of survey respondents reported their intentions of moving to other European countries (mostly Sweden, Netherlands and Austria).

Respondents were also asked about their intended country of destination at the time of the interview. There were no significant changes in reported countries of intended destination among all main nationalities surveyed.
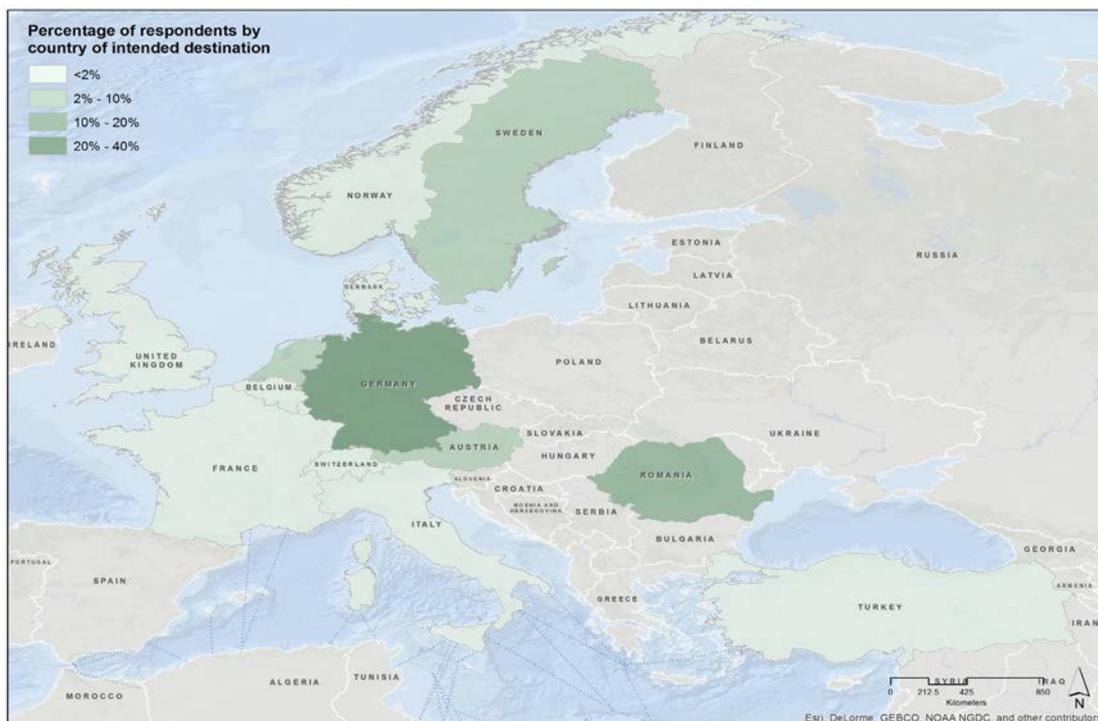
Map 3: Percentage of respondents by country of intended destination.

Moreover, approximately half of the respondents who chose Germany as their desired destination country reported that they did so because of family or relatives already living there, followed by 41 per cent of respondents who intended to move to Germany due to the country's appealing socio-economic conditions.

Almost half of the respondents who chose Romania as destination country reported having chosen it because of the safety situation. Twenty per cent of respondents reported they chose Romania because of family or relatives who are living there, while 19 per cent reported appealing socio-economic conditions. The full breakdown of reasons for choosing Germany and Romania as destination countries is presented on the graphs below.
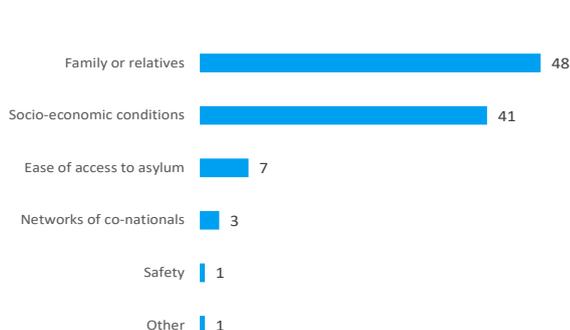

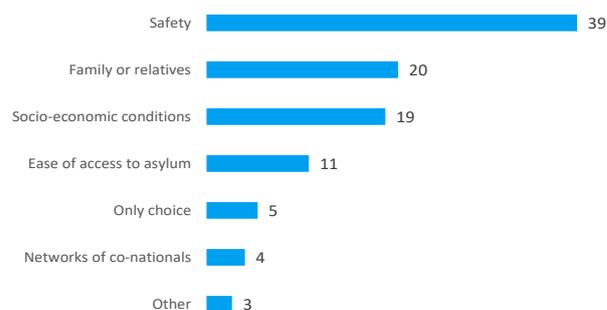**Figure 11: Percentage of respondents by reasons for choosing Germany as destination country.**

Figure 12: Percentage of respondents by reasons for choosing Romania as destination country.

3. Methodology

Surveys in Romania were conducted as part of DTM activities in the Mediterranean that have started in October 2015 and are being conducted within the framework of IOM´s research on populations on the move, through the Mediterranean and Western Balkans Routes to Europe. The data collection involves direct interviews with migrants and a collation of statistical data on arrivals from national authorities and IOM country offices. Regular updates on arrivals are available on DTM Flows to Europe Geoportal.

During the month of August, 4 data collectors conducted more than 300 interviews with migrants in three locations in Romania - Galati reception center, Timisoara reception center and in Bucharest. When combined with the work done in other countries on the Eastern and Central Mediterranean route, at the end of August 2017 the total number of surveys amounted to 9,483. Between February and August 2017 more than 20 data collectors were conducting surveys in Italy, Greece, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), Montenegro, Hungary, Bulgaria and, as mentioned, Romania.

The survey for the Eastern Mediterranean route is conducted by IOM field staff in locations of entry, transit, and exit as well as in specialized accommodation and reception centers in Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244), Romania, Bulgaria and Greece. In addition to three locations in Romania, a network of data collectors in the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans covers a minimum of 30 different flow monitoring points, such as Athens, Oreokastro, Thessaloniki and Schisto in Greece, Gevgelija in the southern part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, main reception centers in Hungary such as Nyrbrator, Vamosszabadi, Gyor, as well as transit zones near the border with Serbia, Röszke and Tompa. Further on, it covered the biggest reception centers in Bulgaria – Harmanli and Pastrogor —as well as transit sites in Subotica near the Hungarian border and Sid in Serbia. The list of flow monitoring points includes also reception centers in Magure and Prishtina (Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)) and Spuz in Montenegro.

In 2017, data collection activities in Italy were conducted in 5 regions, with a total of 54 flow monitoring points covered, including hotspots (Pozzallo, Trapani and Taranto), other governmental reception centres for asylum seekers, transiting centres and unofficial gathering points. In the South of the country (Sicily and Apulia) migrants were interviewed at entry and transit points soon upon arrival in ports where disembarkation from Search and Rescue operations take place (Pozzallo, Catania, Trapani, Taranto, Brindisi); in Lombardy migrants were interviewed mainly in transit centres close to the Italy/Switzerland border (Como) and in Milan, migrants have been interviewed in transiting centres in Ventimiglia (close to the border with France); in Friuli Venezia Giulia migrants have been interviewed in reception centres which mainly host migrants entered by land from Slovenia or Austria. Hence, the overall sample from the survey conducted in Italy also includes a small share of migrants arrived in Italy by land, travelling along the Eastern Mediterranean route, as well as a share of migrants who arrived by sea departing from Turkey or Greece.

3.1. Sampling

In all cases, respondents are approached in an ad hoc manner by IOM field staff, with those who give their consent to be interviewed proceeding with the remaining questions. The sample is therefore not random and, as with all surveys of this kind, this can lead to selection bias. Those willing to respond to this survey are more likely to be young adult males and this group is therefore overrepresented.

The surveys are fully anonymous and provide strong evidence of the kind of enabling environment within which trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse thrive, as well as a better picture of the vulnerability of migrant populations and the risks they face. If interviewers come across respondents who are likely to have unmet protection needs, they referred those people to the relevant protection actor.
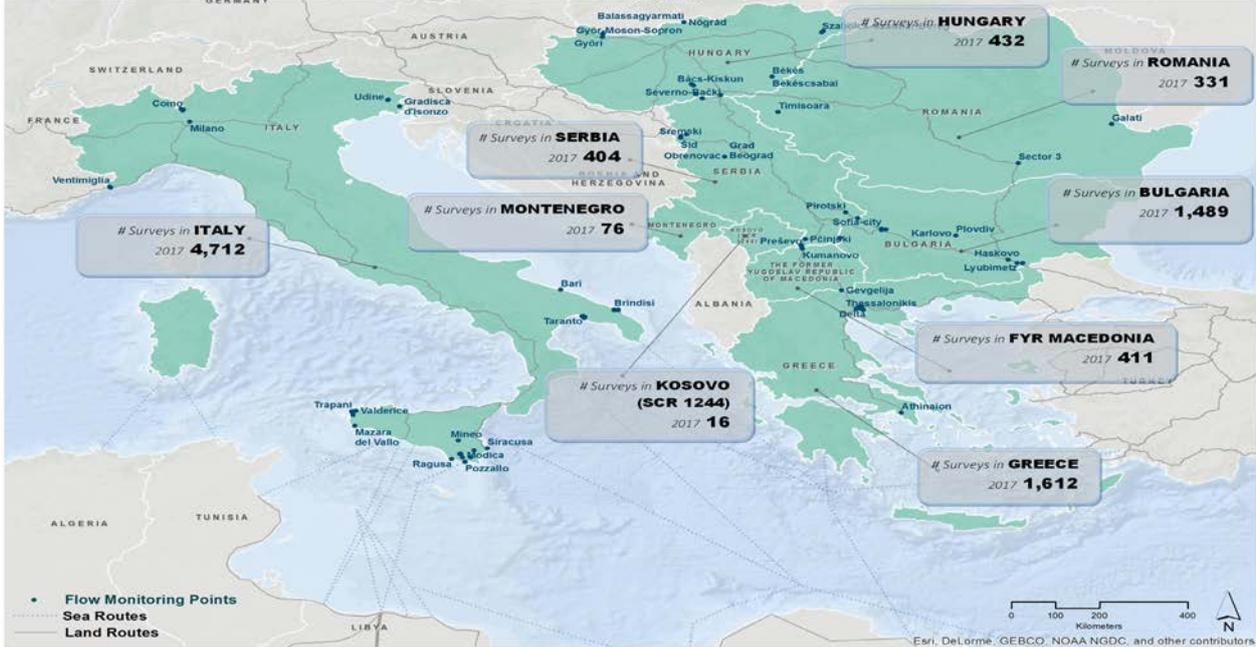
The survey is designed to profile third country (non-European) nationals who are migrating to the countries of Europe through the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes. Only migrants aged 14 and above are approached. DTM's baseline FMS module captures data on the demographic profile of the respondents, the circumstances of their migration journey and migration push factors, their place of origin or their last country of habitual residence, and the existing pull factors in their intended country of destination. The sample structure intends to represent migrants' nationalities, sex and age structures, aiming to be representative. Nevertheless, flows are constantly changing and fieldwork conditions depend on the country, location and centre surveyed. This round of FMS only considered migrants who had arrived in the country of the interview during or after the beginning of 2016, with the survey having been translated into Arabic, Dari, English, French, Farsi, Italian, Pashtu and Urdu.

The second FMS module contains questions that indicate human trafficking and exploitation practices. The module is prepared by IOM's Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants (AVM) Unit and gathers information on events of human trafficking and other exploitative practices, experienced by the respondent or his/her family member(s), or witnessed by the respondent during the journey. The survey structure has the advantage of facilitating the collection of data that relates to the direct experiences of the primary respondent. This provides more reliable data, improving the estimation of prevalence. In order to capture the experiences of other migrants and refugees en-route, the respondent is further asked a follow-up question about whether that same question applies to any of his or her family members travelling with him or her on the journey.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTES

Surveyes conducted in Greece, FYR Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Montenegro, Kosovo (SCR 1244) and Italy in 2017

Disclaimer: *Base Map Source:* ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Surveys in HUNGARY 2017 **432**

Surveys in ROMANIA 2017 **331**

Surveys in SERBIA 2017 **404**

Surveys in BULGARIA 2017 **1,489**

Surveys in ITALY 2017 **4,712**

Surveys in MONTENEGRO 2017 **76**

Surveys in KOSOVO (SCR 1244) 2017 **16**

Surveys in FYR MACEDONIA 2017 **411**

Surveys in GREECE 2017 **1,612**

• Flow Monitoring Points
Sea Routes
Land Routes

Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

DTM Mediterranean

Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS) is one of the components implemented under DTM portfolio in Europe. Aside from the primary data collection through direct interviews, it includes also collation of statistical information products, based on secondary data revision. Compilation of available data and information is released on monthly, quarterly and yearly basis, together with a comprehensive datasets. More frequent updates and maps with information on arrivals to Europe and migrants´presence in the Western Balkans are available on the Flows to Europe Geoportal. The same platform contains all publications released as part of the DTM Mediterranean activities and can be directly accessed here. Some of the latest products can be seen below.

Flows Compilation Report

December 2017

Download here

Annual Overview of Arrivals to Europe -2017

January 2018

Dowload here

Annual Overiview - Arrivals to Europe 2017 dataset

January 2018

Download here

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Mediterranean

Migration Flows - Europe

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Data collection activities supported by:

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